



Resource Sharing Alliance NFP  
715 Sabrina Drive  
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1 March 2024

Subject: Memorandum regarding transition of RSA NFP to an Illinois Intergovernmental Instrumentality (III)

On July 1, 2024, RSA will convert from a Not for Profit to an Illinois Intergovernmental Instrumentality, which is a unit of government. On this date, new bylaws will be adopted, and a new fee structure will begin to phase in through 2029. The organization conversion is triggered by 72 current RSA NFP members signing the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Establishing RSA.

**The only thing you need to do is sign, date, and return the last page of the IGA and return it to RSA.** You will need two signatures on this signature page of the “Intergovernmental Agreement Establishing Resource Sharing Alliance and Authorizing Membership in Resource Sharing Alliance (RSA)”. Typically, a Board officer or School Administrator signs the agreement and the Library Director or Head Librarian signs in the Attest section. A full copy of the Intergovernmental Agreement is included in the Governance Packet.

Also included in this overview is a memorandum from Monica Harris, Executive Director of RAILS, outlining the RAILS request for RSA to become fully independent from RAILS and the reasons they requested we do so.

The packages mailed to your library and, for schools, an additional copy mailed to your administration, also include a lilac colored IGA signature page, self-stamped, self-addressed envelope to return the signature page to RSA, and a letter detailing your library’s fees for RSA membership for Fiscal Years 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, and 2029. These fees have been set by RSA’s board and will not change from the amounts in this letter.

There are three additional packets which include the complete set of the documents created by RSA’s Board and Staff that provide detailed information on all aspects of this critical transition. These have been divided into Governance, Communications, and Fee Structure documents, starting with an index providing details on documents included.

**If you are unsure if you wish to remain in RSA for any reason, please sign the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) anyway. Signing the IGA gives you at least one full year to find and migrate to an alternative library automation system.**

**If you have questions or concerns, PLEASE CALL 866-940-4083** and ask for Kendal or Antony, or email them to the help desk at [help@rsanfp.org](mailto:help@rsanfp.org).



February 16, 2024

**TO: RSA Members**

**FROM: Monica Harris, Executive Director**

**SUBJECT: RAILS Support of RSA and the RSA Independence Project**

### **Introduction**

As the RSA Independence Project moves forward, RAILS and RSA felt it was a good time to revisit the history of how and why RAILS requested this move to independence. The following document will provide further information for RSA members about the background and history of the relationship. RAILS is committed to the future success of RSA and we look forward to making this process function as smoothly as possible.

As many of you are aware, RSA was independently operated by the Alliance Library System until the system merger in 2011. At the time of the merger, there were four automation consortia that migrated support to RAILS:

- MAGIC (later merged with SWAN)
- PrairieCat
- SWAN
- RSA

RSA staff are currently still RAILS employees, while all other LLSAPs have since moved to operational and financial independence from RAILS and employment of their own staff.

Currently, RAILS provides operational and staffing services covering the majority of RSA's operations outside of the Symphony/Workflows automation system. Through its relationship with RAILS, RSA has been able to keep membership fees lower than other automation consortia, but this is not a long-term solution. Moving forward, RAILS will continue to support RSA through the LLSAP Support Grant award, rather than in direct support.

### **Background**

These changes have been carefully considered by RAILS, RSA, and the RSA Board. Here's the most relevant recent history:

- October 2019: Former RAILS Executive Director Deirdre Brennan requested that RSA begin a formal planning process for the funding and employment of its own staff. This reflected a similar process to those undertaken by SWAN and PrairieCat, who were also once employees of RAILS.
- October 2020: RAILS required that the independence of RSA be completed within a timeframe beginning by July 1, 2024, and no later than July 1, 2026.
- 2021 and 2022: RAILS Consortia Committee's LLSAP Sustainability Working Group began work to explore the possibilities of additional statewide resource sharing initiatives, but RAILS staff identified the need to focus on RSA's transition to financial independence before longer-term regional or statewide projects could be possible.
- February 2023: After being named RAILS Executive Director, I met directly with RSA Executive Director Kendal Orrison, RSA Board President Alissa Williams, and several RSA members as part of my transition into the new role during the RAILS Meet & Greet networking meetings.
- August 2023: RAILS Director of Technology Services Anne Slaughter and I met with the RSA Board to discuss progress on the RSA governance structure and plan for future steps. Consultant Amanda Standerfer was brought in to work on a shared communication plan for the transition.

### **Next Steps**

Since our initial meeting with the RSA Board in August 2023, RAILS staff has continued to work together with the RSA Board and staff to achieve a smooth transition to independence. The first major step in the process will begin July 1, 2024, and the complete transition will be completed by July 1, 2026.

When RSA fully transitions to operating as an independent organization, I am confident that these changes will result in an RSA that is well managed, effective, and sustainable as well as being consistent with the other five LLSAPs within the RAILS service area. RAILS remains committed to continuing all of the services you depend on from RAILS and your status as RAILS members. I look forward to continuing to work with the RSA Board, staff, and membership to ensure a successful future for RSA.